



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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Second District

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Third District

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Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

December 22, 2006

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael Antonovich  
  
From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

## SACRAMENTO UPDATE

### Legislative Proposal for Electronic Monitoring

On August 1, 2006, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Knabe to instruct the Chief Administrative Officer and County Counsel to draft legislation to allow for the courts, the Sheriff and the Probation Department to mandate an electronic monitoring sentence while also keeping the voluntary provision in place, instruct our Sacramento advocates to seek an author for the bill, and report back to the Board with monthly progress reports. In response to this motion, County Counsel drafted language which was reviewed and approved by a working group convened by the Fourth District. The group included representatives from the Sheriff, Probation, County Counsel and my office. Our Sacramento advocates have submitted the language to a potential Senate author, and we will notify your offices in a subsequent Sacramento Update when an author has been confirmed.

### Governor's Prison Reform Plan

On December 21, 2006, James Tilton, Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, presented a brief overview of the Administration's prison reform plan that will become a part of the Governor's Budget to be released on January 10, 2007. The Secretary's comments are summarized below:

The State currently has over 174,000 persons incarcerated in State controlled detention facilities. This is nearly double the designed capacity for these facilities, and the State has indicated that it will be unable to hold additional inmates sometime around the beginning of FY 2007-08. The State faces lawsuits in three Federal courts to reduce the population to approximately 115,000 inmates. In response, the Administration will be proposing a \$10 billion program to mitigate overcrowding in State facilities using a number of strategies that include:

- \$4.4 billion to build additional prison beds to replace the over 16,000 overflow beds currently used in dayrooms, hallways, classrooms, treatment rooms and other related areas. This will allow the prisons to reclaim space previously used for treatment programs. Of this amount, \$1.6 billion will be used to construct re-entry facilities that provide housing and facilities to inmates scheduled for release into the community in the near future. These facilities are also planned to house parole violators facing a short term of re-incarceration. Also included are funds to construct a new correctional officer training academy in Southern California.
- \$4 billion to build additional county jail capacity. The Administration expects one half of the 45,000 new beds to be built from these funds to be used to house persons with State prison sentences. Counties will be expected to provide matching funds of 25 percent to participate in this construction program. Local agencies that agree to build re-entry facilities in their community will be given priority funding for new county beds. At this time, the funding of the associated operational costs has not been determined.
- \$1 billion for construction of additional capacity to provide medical and mental health services to inmates in order to address the concerns of the federal courts. This amount is intended to fund only the FY 2007-08 obligations for these services. Additional funds will be necessary in future years to complete the expansion of programming to approximately 10,000 inmates that currently have inadequate treatment services.
- \$400 million to increase local juvenile detention facility capacity. This is expected to increase capacity by 4,500 beds.

The Governor's plan also includes a proposal to house inmates sentenced to three years or less for State felonies in county jails. It is not clear whether counties will be required to house these inmates whether or not they participate in the county jail construction program. The Administration also proposes the creation of a sentencing commission to review State sentencing laws related to the underlying criminal offenses.

The details of the Administration's plan have yet to be worked out and a number of working groups are anticipated to meet after the beginning of the year to provide clarification.

### **Nuñez Health Care Reform Plan**

On December 21, 2006, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez outlined his proposal to insure all children in the State and working Californians, and to ask employers to pay a fair share of coverage. A summary of the key features of the proposal follows:

**Eligibility.** The Speaker's Fair Share Health Care plan would provide coverage to all California children in households with incomes up to 300 percent of the Federal poverty level. In firms of two or more employees, both part-time and seasonal workers and their dependants would be covered. The self-employed would have enhanced access to coverage either through a State-level purchasing cooperative or a reformed private insurance market. The proposal would provide for primary coverage of Medi-Cal/Healthy Families program eligible employees and their dependants through an employer plan, if available, and would provide supplemental coverage to ensure Medi-Cal/Healthy Families benefit levels.

**Funding.** The plan would require employers to contribute to the cost of health care for workers and dependants in a "pay or play" model. Employers can pay for health care coverage, or pay a fee, based on a fair share percentage of payroll. For those opting to pay a fee, coverage would be available through a State cooperative purchasing program.

**Employee Responsibility.** All employees who are offered coverage at work would be required to accept coverage for themselves and their dependants. Employees whose employers choose to pay rather than offer coverage would pay a defined percentage of their income for coverage through the State cooperative purchasing program.

**Government Responsibility.** The proposal would establish the California Cooperative Health Insurance Purchasing Program (Cal-CHIPP), administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, to negotiate and purchase health insurance for employees whose employer chooses the pay option. Cal-CHIPP will offer at least three uniform benefit designs that will also be offered by all insurers in the private market. In addition, California will maximize federal funds by expanding coverage for low-income families through the Medi-Cal/Healthy Families programs.

The Speaker indicated that his health insurance plan will also include insurance reform, such as streamlining the medical underwriting process, and a variety of cost containment proposals including reducing uncompensated care, provision of preventive service and a disease management program.

The Governor is expected to release a plan for addressing the needs of 6.5 million Californians who do not have health insurance during his State of the State speech on January 9, 2007.

**Senate Committee Chairs**

On December 21, 2006 Senate President pro Tem Don Perata announced the following Senate committee chairs:

**Agriculture** – Abel Maldonado

**Appropriations** – Tom Torlakson

**Banking, Finance, Insurance** – Mike Machado

**Budget** – Denise Ducheny

- **Sub 1 on Education** – Jack Scott
- **Sub 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection and Energy** – Alan Lowenthal
- **Sub 3 on Health and Human Services** – Elaine Alquist
- **Sub 4 on State Administration, General Government, Judicial and Transportation** – Mike Machado

**Business, Professions and Economic Development** – Mark Ridley-Thomas

**Education** – Jack Scott

**Elections, Reapportionment, and Constitutional Amendments** – Ron Calderon

**Energy, Utilities and Communications** – Christine Kehoe

**Environmental Quality** – Joe Simitian

**Ethics** – Alan Lowenthal

**Government Organization** – Dean Florez

**Health** – Sheila Kuehl

**Human Services** – Elaine Alquist

**Judiciary** – Ellen Corbett

**Labor and Industrial Relations** – Carole Migden

**Local Government** – Gloria Negrete-McLeod

**Natural Resources and Water** – Darrell Steinberg

**Public Employment and Retirement** – Pat Wiggins

**Revenue and Taxation** – Jenny Oropeza

**Rules** – Don Perata

- **Democratic Members of Rules Committee:** Gilbert Cedillo, Alex Padilla

**Transportation and Housing** – Alan Lowenthal

**Veterans Affairs** – Mark Wyland

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK

MAL:MS:SK:hg

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Local 660  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association